

# TAOS NEWS TAOS

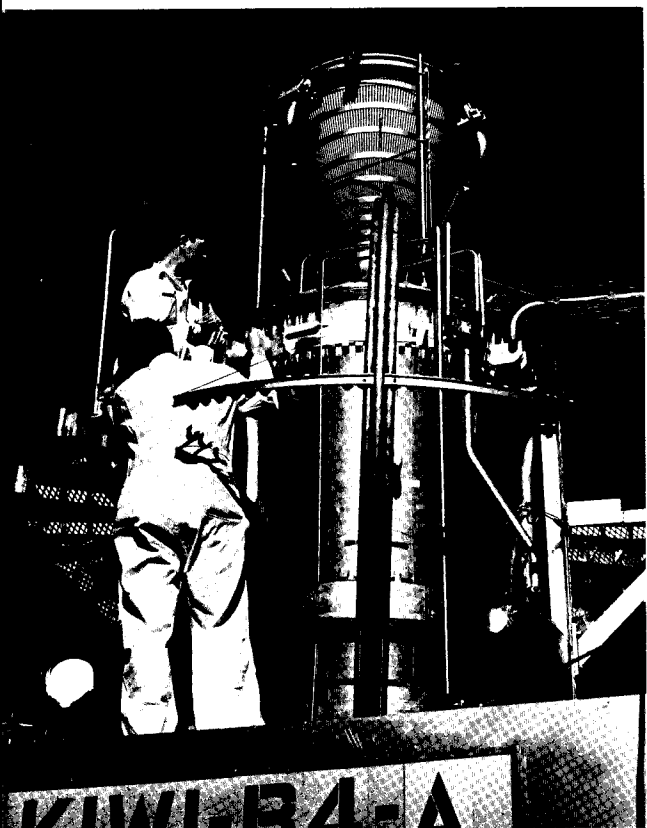
LOS ALAMOS SCIENTIFIC LABORATORY of the University of California

VOL. 4, NO. 27

LOS ALAMOS, NEW MEXICO

DECEMBER 6, 1962

## KENNEDY COMES TO THE HILL



## PERMITS AVAILABLE FOR TREE CUTTING

Persons who wish to select and cut their own Christmas trees may do so again this year if they first buy a \$1 permit. Good trees, however, will be more difficult to find this season because of widespread damage by insects.

Despite spruce bud worm infestation of up to 90 percent of the spruce trees in the area, the AEC will allow cutting on both sides of Camp May road from about a half mile above the West Jemez road intersection to the ski lodge.

Although trees within 100 feet of the road may not be cut, there are no restrictions on the size of trees, nor on dates or time of day when trees may be taken. Only one tree may be cut with each permit.

Permits are available at the Zia Company real estate office during normal working hours. On weekends, they may be bought at Zia's work order desk at TA-3, SM-38, west of the Laboratory administration building.

Homer Pickens, AEC conservationist, has requested that trees be cut as close to the ground as possible and that care be taken not to damage surrounding trees.

## PROPOSALS INVITED

Invitations for proposals to provide support services at the Nuclear Rocket Development Station at the Nevada Test Site are being issued by the Space Nuclear Propulsion Office.

The selected contractor will be expected to provide support services to NRDS base operations and limited support to LASL, Aerojet, Westinghouse, Lockheed and other contractors involved in the nuclear rocket research and development program.

In addition to plan engineering and housekeeping competence, the support services contractor will be required to have significant capabilities in cryogenic technology, involving liquified gases at extremely low temperatures; radiation monitoring; temporary storage of radioactive wastes; computer operation, and the operation of shops and special equipment such as mobile, shielded vehicles.

## ROVER BIDS INVITED

The AEC has advised contractors that bids will be invited about December 26, for Rover Program Storage Facilities in Los Alamos at TA-3, 18, and 46. Bids are scheduled to be opened on January 22, at Los Alamos Area Office headquarters.

The project will consist of six warehouses ranging in size from 1,350 square feet to 6,000 square feet. Five of the buildings will be of prefabricated metal and one of concrete block construction.

Work is to be completed within 180 days after the successful contractor receives notice to proceed. Estimated cost range is \$175,000.00 to \$200,000.00.

Neuner & Cabiniss, Architect-Engineers, of Albuquerque, New Mexico, is architect-engineer for the design of the project.

## STORY HOUR RESUMES

All children of the elementary schools are invited to attend Story Hour each Friday from 4 to 4:45 at the Mesa Public Library. Mrs. Alice Cox, director of library services for children, will tell a variety of stories in addition to introducing new books for each age group. In January the first of two eight-weeks sessions of classes for four year old boys and girls will be initiated. The classes are designed to introduce pre-schoolers to stories, finger plays, and games to be found in books especially for them. Registrations will be taken from Monday, January 7 through Friday, January 11. Classes are limited to 30 children.



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## PRESIDENT TO SPEND 100 MINUTES ON HILL

AT LASL NEWS press time, the latest revised schedule for President Kennedy's visit to Los Alamos December 7 set the arrival time of the chief executive at 2:40 p.m.

The President and his party would fly from Albuquerque aboard helicopters, landing at a specially-built heliport south of the CMR building. They would immediately go to Wing 9 of the CMR building in which a display of LASL activities, featuring Project Rover, has been set up. Following a ten-minute period devoted to press picture-taking, the President would be given a briefing on the progress of Project Rover.

A number of unclassified exhibits are included in the show, but the President will also be shown a number of exhibits and demonstrations in a screened-off classified portion of Wing 9. Included are a display of a cut-away Kiwi B-4 reactor, a display of its fuel elements, and models of RIFT, NERVA and an Advanced Saturn Rocket.

President Kennedy will see demonstrations of nondestructive testing methods used to insure near-perfection of reactor parts. Included is an air gauge which measures the size of holes in reactor parts. Also there is a gamma counter to determine uranium 235 content. A filament used in still another demonstration indicates the brightness of the inside of the reactor at various temperatures.

Departing the CMR building at 3:50 p.m., the President would arrive at the high school football field five minutes later to deliver a brief address.

The schedule calls for the departure of the President from the football field at 4:05 p.m. for a 10-minute drive by motorcade to the airport. At 4:20 p.m., the President will leave Los Alamos.



## ON THE COVER:

All eyes this week were on President John F. Kennedy and the Laboratory's Project Rover. Photograph of the President is by Al Lowry. Joseph Ulibarri made the picture of the Kiwi reactor in Nevada.

# ONE FOR THE MONEY...



How do you plan for a president?

As several dozen harried people can now testify with authority, it takes a lot more than a brass band and some red, white and blue bunting.

Especially when some of the information is missing—like when, or even if, the President will come, for how long, with whom, to do what and how.

But by **NEWS** press time last Friday all but several hundred details had been worked out and Los Alamos was ready to welcome President John F. Kennedy at about 2:40 p.m. tomorrow. Unless something has changed again in the last week—or hour.

The story of the preparations began—or better still, **didn't** begin—on September 29. That morning Laboratory officials, like everybody else, read in the papers that Senator Clinton Anderson had invited the President to visit Los Alamos. Period.

It wasn't until about a week later that Laboratory Director Norris Bradbury learned from a Kirtland Base officer that the Air Force had been warned there might be a presidential visit "sometime after elections and before Thanksgiving."

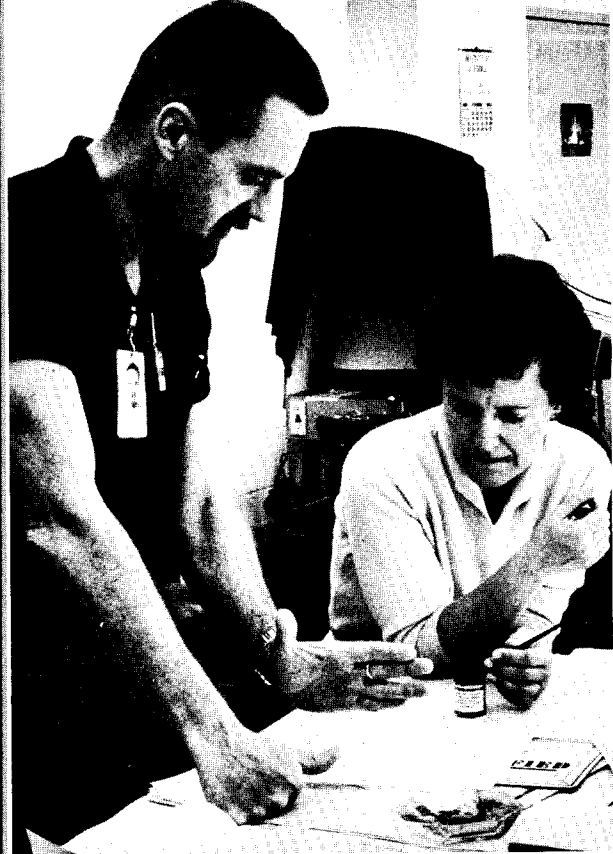
A few days later the story from Kirtland was that November 15 to 21 looked good. Senator Anderson reported the same rumor and said the possibilities seemed promising enough to warrant some planning.

On Friday afternoon, October 12, Bob Krohn of D-6, who is in charge of the LASL museum, had just picked up his tickets for a week-long trip to New York. But he never left town. Instead he was buttonholed to head up the preparations for the presidential visit and has been at it full time—and then some—ever since.

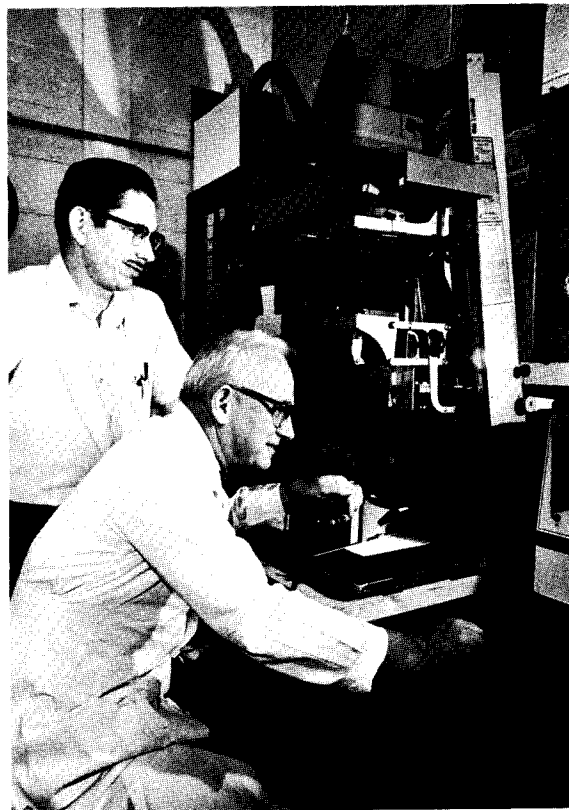
Monday a show committee, consist-

Through this door will pass John F. Kennedy—and so it gets a fresh coat of paint from a Zia workman.

Photographs by Bill Regan and Al Lowry



Bill Johnson of D-3 and Group Leader Liz Stark (left) worked out poster and exhibit designs produced in D-3 where technical artists put in something like 850 man hours on thirty huge posters. Posters and reactor parts are displayed on nine birch-paneled cabinets made by the Shops Department. Craftsmen John Mench and Merle Carter (below) discuss some of the preliminary plans.



Show Boss Bob Krohn, D-6, and John Rowley, coordinating for N Division, (left) seek the solution to yet another problem as the Rover Project exhibit goes into place in Wing 9. Above, D-8's Bob Martin and Frank May turned out more than 100 handsome color prints for the show. Gaspard Aerojet and Lockheed visitors: "We can't even buy color work as fine as that!"

# ...TWO FOR THE SHOW

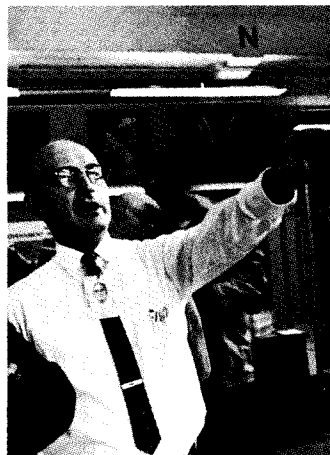
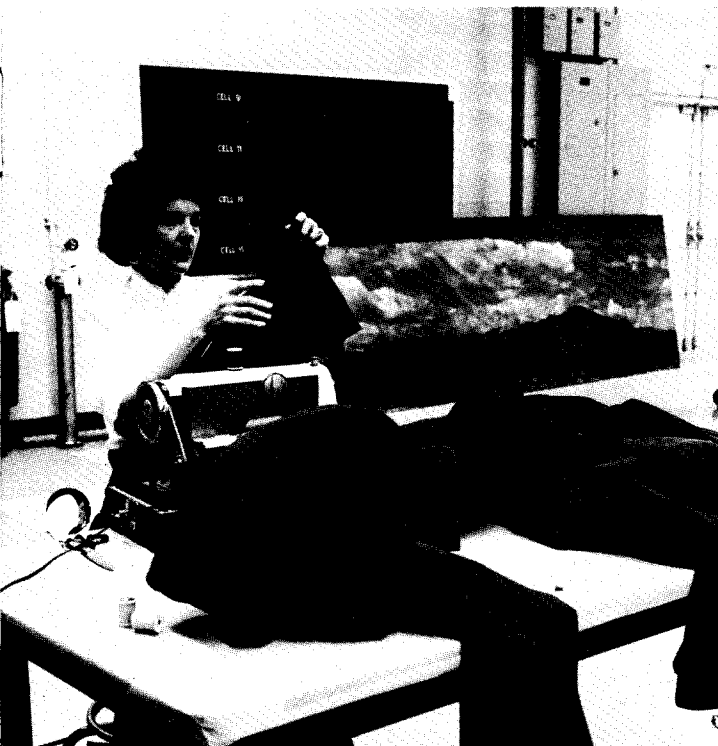
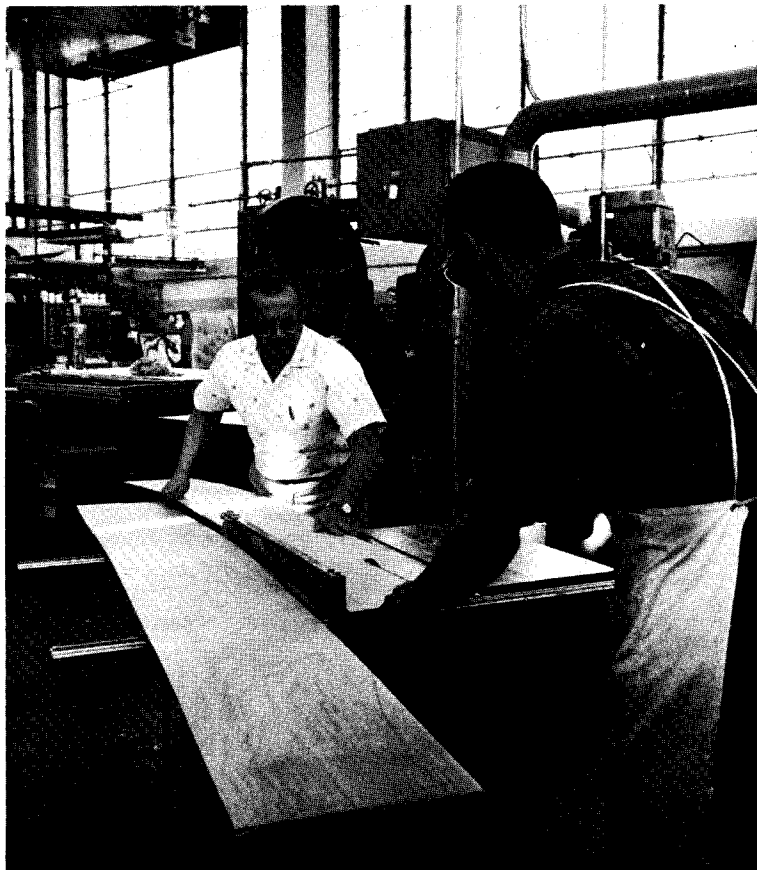
ing of Krohn, John Fowley, representing N Division; Dwayne Vier, representing fuel element development; and John Young of Public Relations, met to make preliminary plans for exhibits and select a location, which turned out to be the shiny new Wing 9 hot cell facility, duly donated by CMB-14 Group Leader John Schulte.

By October 17 all the groups involved were mobilized, working toward a November 20 deadline. And they worked in secret.

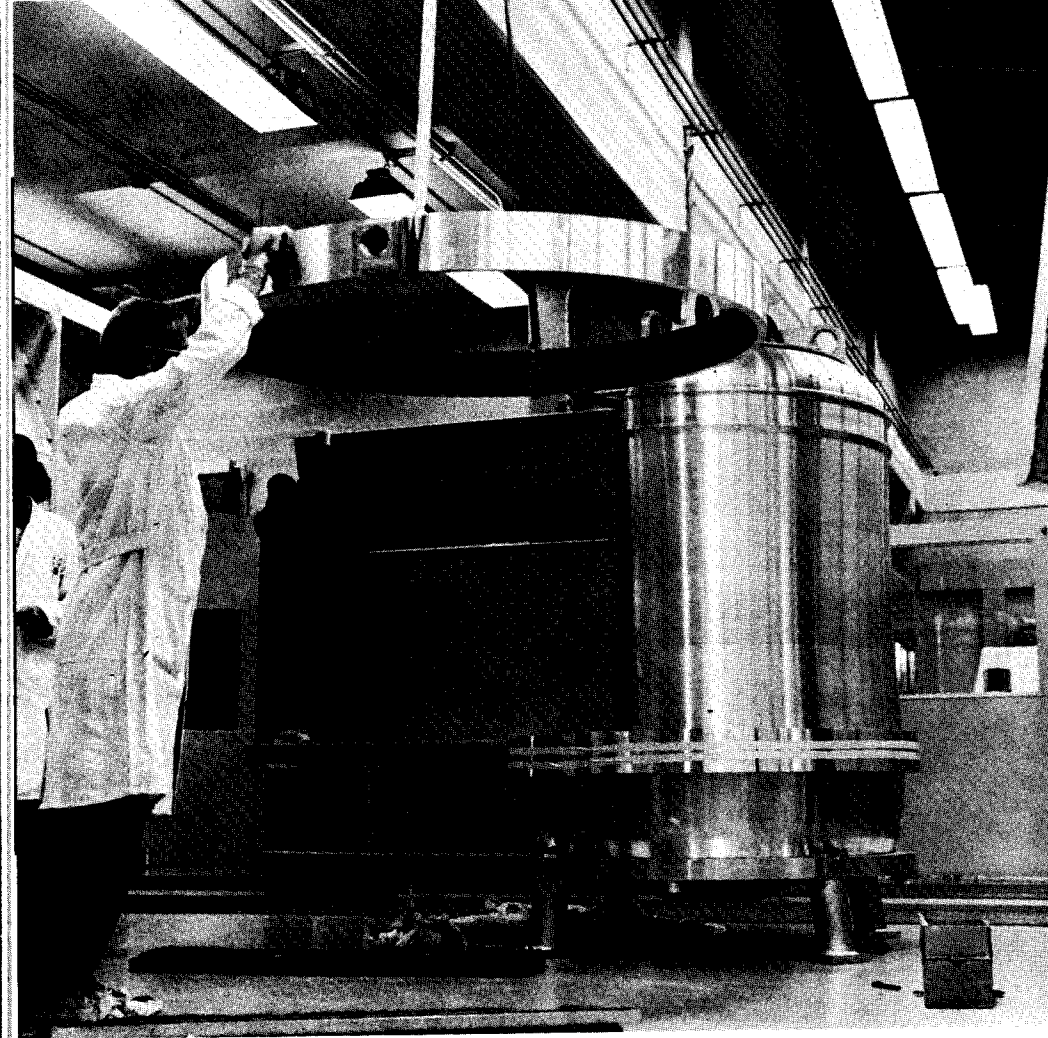
Although rumors flew thick and fast over coffee cups and across back fences, those in the know (and they actually knew less than anybody) were sworn to secrecy and went about their mysterious chores, bewildering their fellow workers.

In D-3, the illustration group, Bill Johnson was put in charge and began with blueprints of Wing 9 on which he and John Rowley, N-3, worked out the exhibit arrangement and designed the display areas. With Rowley and Dwayne Vier, CMB-3, Johnson designed 30 huge posters to describe the techni-

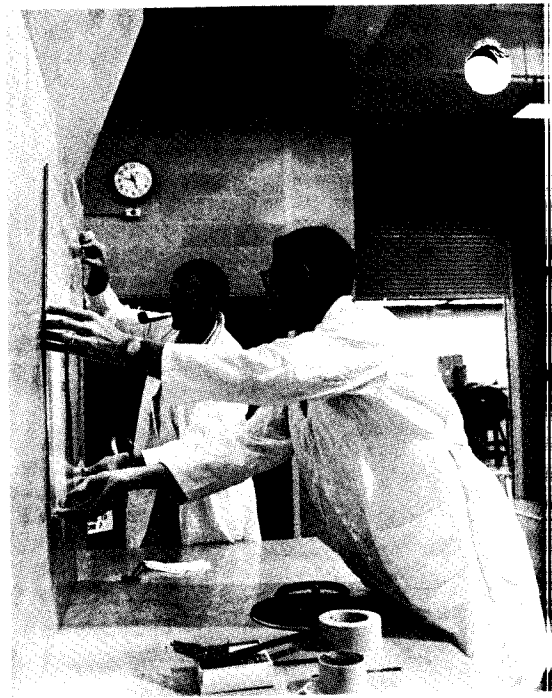
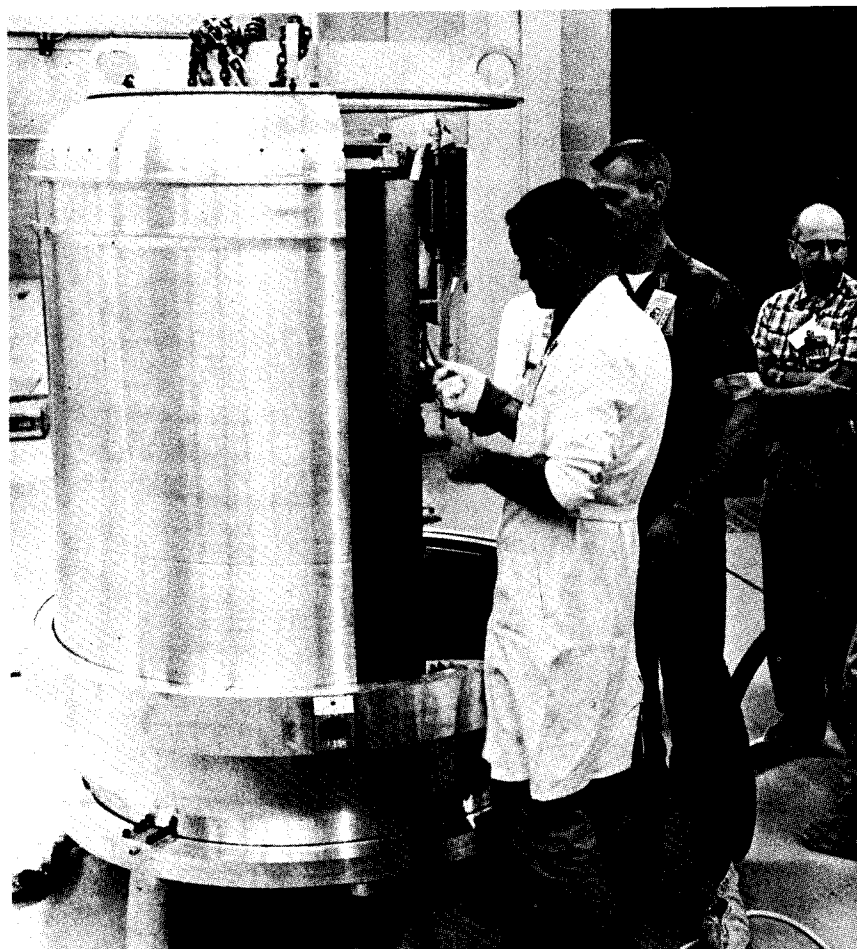
Birch plywood from northern New Mexico is trimmed to size in Shops as construction begins on the display cabinets (right).



Scotti Roach, a D-3 artist, (far left) spent three solid weeks at her sewing machine turning out draperies that decorate the show and separate the classified from unclassified in the exhibit. Need for 300 yards of corduroy depleted stocks of all New Mexico stores, required air shipments from a New York manufacturer. Near left, Wing 9 Boss John Schulte makes a suggestion. ENG-1's Dick Field is barely visible over his shoulder.



ACF workers who helped N Division personnel assemble the cutaway Kiwi, ease the huge ring clamp seal into place (above) and (below) make some adjustments on the reactor innards.



N Division's temperature demonstration is installed by Don Court and John Buchen of CMB-7.

calities of reactor development in a clear visual form, got all of D-3 working on them on a production line basis.

About this time Supply and Property began to feel the deluge of requests and slashed through red tape to bring in rush orders of birch panelling, hundreds of yards of blue and gold corduroy for draperies, sheets of non-reflecting glass, paint, paper, sign holders, and countless other strange and desperately needed items.

Meanwhile, Shops department cabinet makers were turning out nine handsome birch-panelled display cabinets, and down in the dark room, Color Expert Bob Martin, assisted by Frank May, began turning out color prints as if it were easy. In ENG-1, a team of model-makers launched a crash program to expand the popular working model of a Kiwi by adding a scaled cutaway of the MAD building, complete with lead glass windows and a battery of manipulators. Scotti Roach of D-3 disappeared into Wing 9 on November 6 to begin working full time making and hanging draperies.

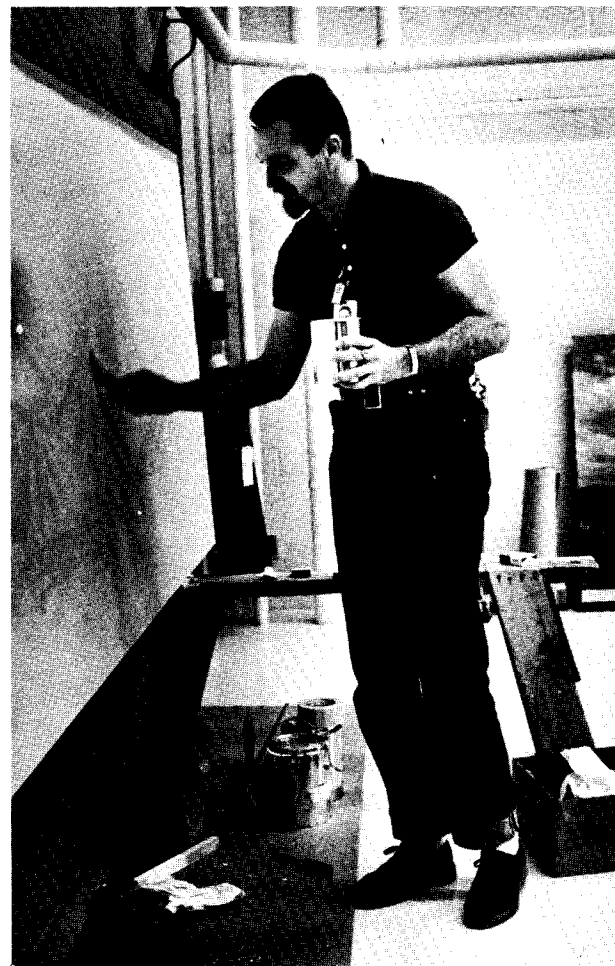
Public Relations became a factory for

# ... THREE TO MAKE READY



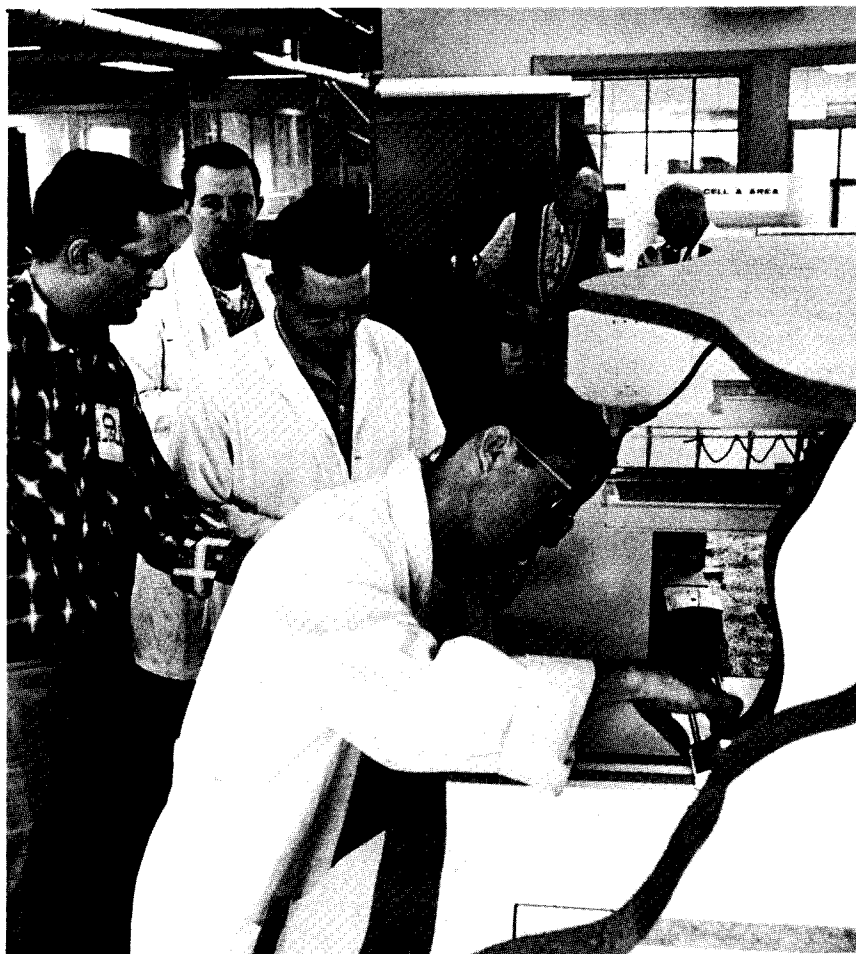
ENG-1 modelmakers (front to back: Gene Cunnington, Marv Linke, Harold Robinson, Jim Case, Frank Black and Robert Jenkins) put together a scaled down version of the NRDS MAD building to house the model reactor.

Not everything went well. After five attempts to get a good, mountable photomural to back the Kiwi model, some of the high priced help tried to salvage the mounting board, at least, by removing 56 square feet of glue (left). Eventually, the 14-foot mural was painted by D-3's Bill Johnson (below).



instant brochures and jiffy pictures. Last week, some 20,000 words and 1200 glossy prints later, five new brochures, a 21-page fact sheet, and bundles of captioned pictures had been stuffed into about 100 press kits and information folders.

And all the while, John Rowley was on a monumental shop-lifting spree. He roamed Project Rover labs, picking up stray Kiwi parts wherever he found them in order to put together an authentic cutaway model of the Kiwi-B4-A reactor. As a result a long line of Rover



# ... AND FOUR TO GO

Model MAD building passes close inspection by Lab Technical Associate Director Raemer Schreiber (left). On a preview visit to the show on November 23, Rep. Thomas Morris, Senator Clinton Anderson and Rep. Joseph M. Montoya stopped in front of Kiwi-B4-A with Laboratory Director Norris Bradbury (below).



scientists can be expected at the door of Wing 9 first thing Sunday morning to retrieve fuel elements, nozzle, reflectors, control rods and what have you. All will go into future Kiwis except the sliced-open pressure shell which will be welded back together and used for neutronics studies.

By the week before the November 20 deadline, the exhibit itself was shaping up nicely but the details were missing. Not a hint or rumor had sifted down from Washington and AEC people in the capital and Lab officials in Los Alamos found themselves calling each other in futile search of the same information. It was not until hours before the official White House announcement came at noon on November 16 that anybody knew for sure that the President would come at all or that the date was now December 7.

But that's all anybody knew. Hundreds of interesting questions came up—like how long would the President stay? How many people would be in his party? What time would he come?

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"This is the way we're running this show, see," states John Young, Lab Public Relations Officer in a conference with President Kennedy's advance men, "unless, of course, you have other suggestions." Standing, left to right, are Charles C. Campbell, AEC area manager; Bob Porton, PUB; Arnold Fritsch, office of the AEC chairman; Young, Duncan Clark, director of AEC information; CWO Pierre Fontaine, Army Signal Corps, Bob Brashear, PUB; Dick Elliott, AEC Information, ALOO. Seated are Maj. Emerson Cook, assistant Air Force aide to the President; Wayne Hawks, administrative aide to the press secretary, Dick Pino, aide to Senator Anderson, Gerold Behn, chief of White House Secret Service, John McNally, Jr., White House staff assistant.



## THE BIG SHOW

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Should we plan coffee? Lunch? Cocktails? Dinner? What are the rules of protocol? Who meets whom and when? What about the Press? How many of the White House press corps would come? How do we handle them? Will they come earlier, stay later? Do they want to be entertained? What about facilities for transmitting the news? Will the President make a speech, take part in a parade, hold a press conference? What about security? What about badges? Who sees the classified displays? Who doesn't? When will the secret service come? Will they like our plans or change them? What about transportation? Where do they land? How will the swarms of newsmen get to the Hill—and off it? What about weather? What if we have a blizzard?

As one harried PR man was heard to mutter late last week: "We not only don't know the answers, we don't even know the questions!"

One day in November the President's jet helicopter swooped over town, stirring up clouds of dust and lots more rumors. The pilot tried the possible landing spots, rejected some and chose others—but the main one, near Wing 9, needed a landing pad.

On Wednesday, November 21, Charles Reynolds of ENG-4 got the word and by 5 p.m. a crew and equipment from Zia had laid down a 100-foot-diameter landing pad, swept the area of loose rock and weeds, built a road from the pad to Wing 9 and cleared off an alternate landing site at an intersection of two streets in old White Rock.

On Friday, when the New Mexico congressional delegation arrived for a preview of the show, the landing pad was tested and approved, except for one thing. The pilot recommended that a big target be painted on it to help his aim.

But that wasn't all. Late last week the President's advance party came to town and announced that not one but 7 helicopters would be in the Presidential party. Charlie Reynolds was last seen recruiting more road crews to build a king-size launch pad.

The advance party, originally adver-

tised as having five members and arriving on Monday, November 26, turned out to be 25 in number and arrived on Wednesday instead, ran through the program, changed a few things, straightened out some problems, drew up a tentative plan and took off for Washington.

By Thursday the plans had changed twice more and were still changing Friday when the **NEWS** ducked out on the whole thing and went to press.

## LAB SCIENTISTS HONORED AT 'FIRST PILE' EVENTS

Three Laboratory scientists were in Washington last week to participate in ceremonies commemorating the twentieth anniversary of man's first controlled release of nuclear energy.

Al Graves, J Division leader; Philip Koontz, N-2; and R. J. Watts, K-DO; were members of the scientific team working with Enrico Fermi on December 2, 1942 when the first controlled self-sustaining chain reaction was achieved in the world's first nuclear reactor at Stagg Field.

All three were invited to join other members of the original group at a banquet and reception sponsored jointly by the Atomic Industrial Forum and the American Nuclear Society and at the official opening of the Forum's Atom Fair. Crawford Greenewalt of E. I. DuPont Company, also present at the historic event, entertained the scientists at an informal dinner on Wednesday.

Harold M. Agnew, LASL W Division leader on leave to serve as scientific advisor to NATO, and Darol K. Froman, former technical associate director of the Laboratory, were other "Chicago Pile" scientists included in the invitation.

## BID AWARDED

The AEC has awarded a \$955,000.00 contract to Borrett-Moore & Associates of El Paso for construction of the Laboratory's Tanden Van de Graaff facilities.

Work is expected to start about December 20. The project is to be completed within 365 days after the contractor receives notice to proceed.

The firm of Norman Engineering Company, of Los Angeles, California, is architect-engineer for the project.

## UTILITIES REFERENDUM EXPECTED IN EARLY MAY

A referendum on the disposition of gas and electric utilities in Los Alamos is expected to be held during the week of May 6, probably in conjunction with a vote on the future operation of the Los Alamos Medical Center, County Commission Chairman Ellis Stout predicted in an interview last week.

Fate of the utilities is one of the few remaining controversial issues in the forthcoming transfer of the community from government to private ownership. The Joint Committee on Atomic Energy recommended that the utilities be sold to private companies but the law makes possible their transfer to the county.

Stout said the AEC recently agreed to provide funds to hire an engineering consultant firm which will examine the problem from the county's point of view and that the AEC itself will hire another firm to study the question from the federal government's viewpoint. The consultants are expected to be hired by January 1.

Proposals from all interested parties will be accepted by the AEC between February 1 and March 15. These will include proposals from the county, based on findings of its consultants, as well as those from interested public utilities firms.

Between April 15 and May 1, after study by the AEC, the proposals will be submitted to the public in discussions by spokesmen for the interested parties before the referendum in early May.

By June 1, AEC Area Manager Charles C. Campbell hopes to have made a decision, based on the results of the referendum, which will then be submitted to Washington for approval. Final word is expected to be received by July 1.

## REGISTRATION OPENS FOR PAJARITO SKI SCHOOL

Registration is now open for ski classes to be taught this winter by ski instructor Tony Perry. The classes are conducted each year in connection with the Los Alamos Ski Club. Interested persons may register for one of several classes and obtain further information by phoning Audrey Rohwer at 2-3473 between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m.